7 million square metre solar thermal collector area are also proposed in the first phase of the Mission, till March 2013. Mission will also support research and capacity building activities in solar energy. An amount of Rs. 4,337 crores has been approved for the first phase of the Mission.

(c) to (e) The high initial cost is a barrier in large scale utilization of solar energy equipment. However, utilization of solar energy is gradually increasing. The Ministry is providing capital and interest subsidy on select solar energy equipment to reduce the initial cost to the consumers.

Capacity of solar energy machines

†1944. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of smaller and low-cost solar device that is being made for generating solar energy;

(b) whether any plan is under Government's consideration to fulfil the average requirement of kitchen, lights, hot water from nature for all houses of medium class or it is a matter of research;

(c) whether any integrated new and renewable energy *i.e.* solar energy, bio-gas etc. is under consideration to achieve above target; and

(d) if not, whether it can be considered and if so, whether this is being used somewhere, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) Solar cookers (both box and dish types) can cook food for a small family and solar water heating system can provide hot water for various applications. Small capacity solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems with modules of a few watts are available in the country for meeting lighting and other electrical needs. The costs of such small energy systems vary according to technology and may range from Rs.1500 to Rs.20,000.

(b) to (d) In the country so far over 0.65 million solar cookers, 3.15 million sq. m. of collector area for solar water heating, 1.35 million SPV lighting systems and, 4.12 million biogas plants have been installed. In many houses, biogas is used for cooking, solar photovoltaic systems for lighting and hot water is made available from solar water heaters to meet their energy needs.

Competitive pricing of solar photovoltaic panels

1945. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's proposal for 'Jawahar Solar Mission' includes Research and Development for mass production of user friendly competitive pricing of photovoltaic solar panels; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.